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THE ECHIDNA

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DIRECT EDITION

5/92
GENDERS

GNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-FOUR DARK ALLIANCE

PART THREE OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT...
GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!



"IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF -- NAMELESS, UNREASONING, UNJUSTIFIED TERROR WHICH PARALYZES NEEDED EFFORTS TO CONVERT DEFEAT INTO VICTORY. IN EVERY DARK HOUR OF OUR SOCIETY, A LEADERSHIP OF FRANKNESS AND VIGOR HAS MET WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IN ACHIEVING THE DESIRED GOAL. I AM CONVINCED THAT YOU WILL AGAIN GIVE THAT SUPPORT TO LEADERSHIP IN THESE CRITICAL DAYS."

SPECTRE, ON THE EVE OF RALLYING THE CITIZENRY AGAINST THE DARK LEGION DURING THEIR TAKEOVER OF ECHIDNAPOLIS

I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE!

NOT NOW, SPECTRE!

ARCHIMEDES AND I ARE OFF TO ECHIDNAPOLIS TO HELP OUT KNUCKLES!

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU RETURN WITH ME TO HAVEN!

EXCUSE ME--

--BUT WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY SON?

HAVEN HAS BEEN INVADDED BY THE DARK LEGION, LOCKE!

I DON'T BELIEVE I NEED TO DRAW YOU A MAP TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT THAT MEANS!


SHOULD OUR INNERMOST SECRETS BE PENETRATED--!

KNUCKLES IS NOW BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY OUR MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY!

HOW CAN I ABANDON HIM WHEN HE NEEDS ME THE MOST?

HE'LL STAND EVEN LESS OF A CHANCE SHOULD DIMITRI UNCOVER THAT WHICH WE'VE HIDDEN FOR SO LONG, LOCKE!

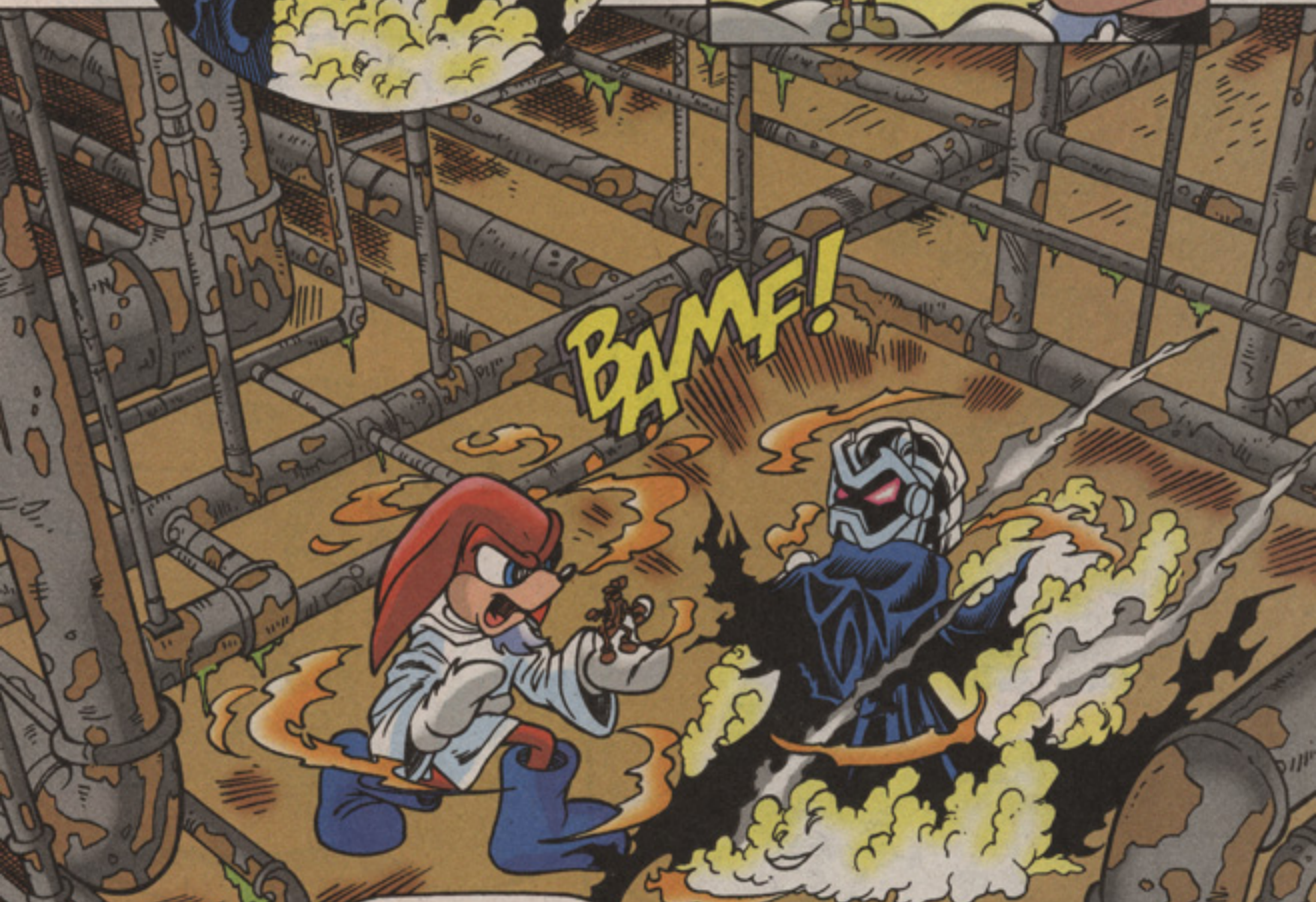
SHOULD YOU GO TO HIS SIDE AND HAVEN FALLS--




--I WOULDN'T
LAY ODDS ON
ANYONE'S
CHANCES FOR
SURVIVAL!



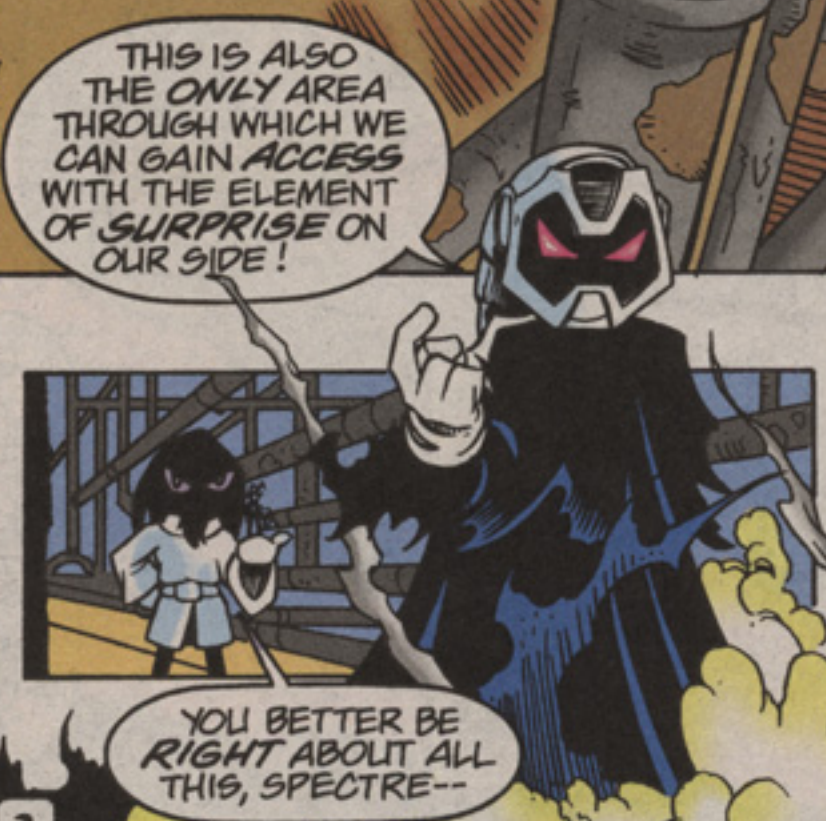
BAMF!




WE'RE IN THE
LOWER LEVELS!



BEEN ALONG
TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN
DOWN HERE!



THIS IS ALSO
THE ONLY AREA
THROUGH WHICH WE
CAN GAIN ACCESS
WITH THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE ON
OUR SIDE!



YOU BETTER BE
RIGHT ABOUT ALL
THIS, SPECTRE--

PRIMARY

BEV

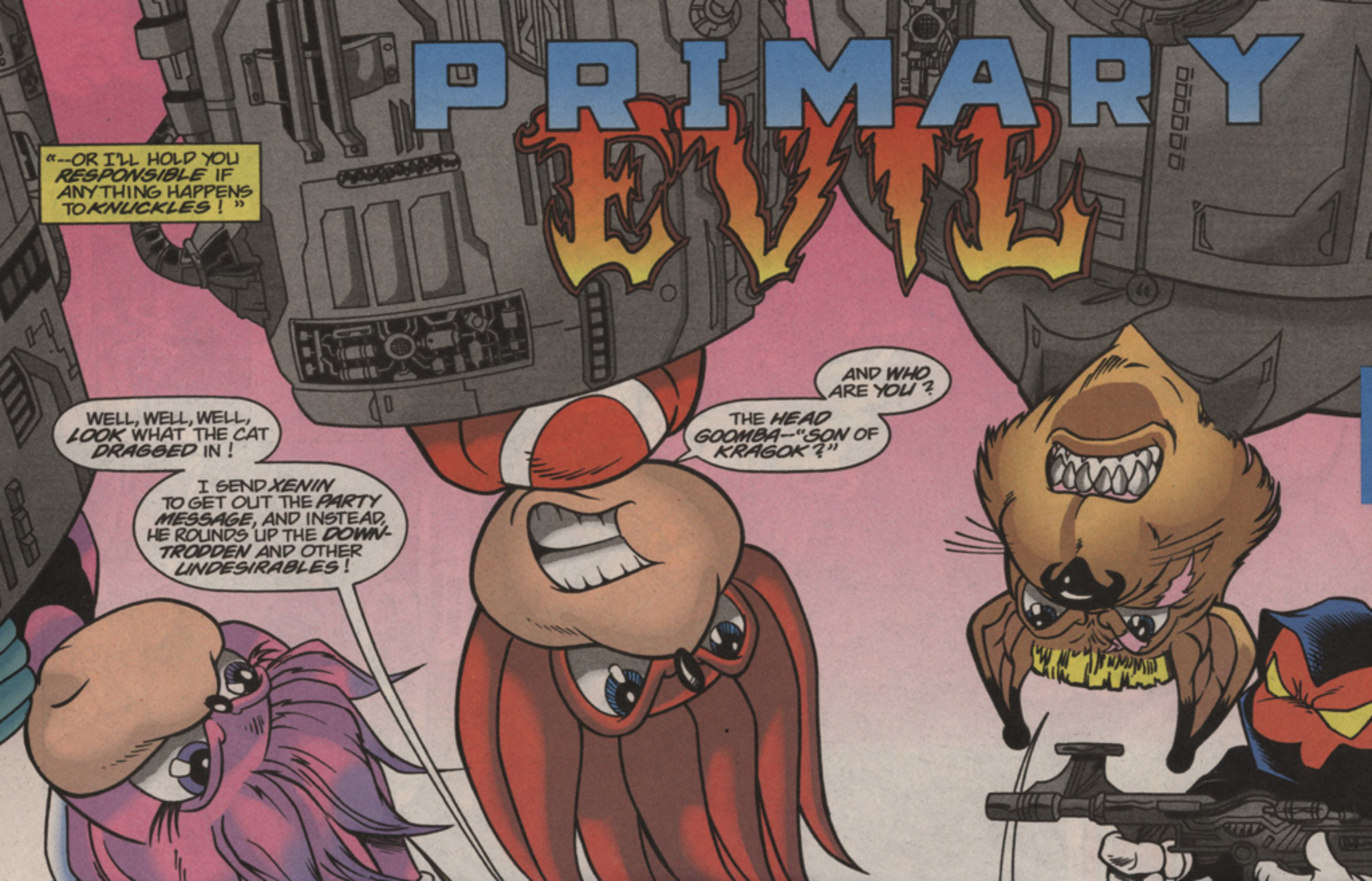
"--OR I'LL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO KNUCKLES!"

WELL, WELL, WELL, LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN!

I SEND XENIN TO GET OUT THE PARTY MESSAGE, AND INSTEAD, HE ROUNDS UP THE DOWN-TRODDEN AND OTHER UNDESIRABLES!

AND WHO ARE YOU?

THE HEAD GOOMBA--"SON OF KRAGOK?"



DON'T
PUSH YOUR LUCK,
GUARDIAN!

THE HONORED
DIMITRI IS NOT ONE
TO BE ADDRESSED IN SUCH
A DISRESPECTFUL
TONE!

DIMITRI?!
HERE?!
ALIVE?!!!

I ALWAYS
KNEW YOU ECHIDNAS
WERE NOT TO BE
TRUSTED!

YOU'D EVEN
TURN ON ONE OF YOUR
OWN KIND!



AH, BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE MISTAKEN, MY DINGO FRIEND!

I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO TURN ON MY OWN KIND!

HAH!

I SEE WE HAVE A DISSENTER!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!

IF YOU ARE DIMITRI-- AND IF I HAVE MY STORY STRAIGHT--

--YOU WERE ON TRACK TO ENSLAVE YOUR OWN PEOPLE UNTIL YOUR OWN BROTHER PUT THE BAG ON THAT PLAN!

MY LATE BROTHER, EDMUND, WAS A DUPE OF THE STATE!

SAY, WHAT?

THE CREATIONISTS RUNNING THE HIGH COUNCIL AT THE TIME STILL HADN'T FORGIVEN THE TECHNOCRACY FOR SAVING THE FLOATING ISLAND FROM THE WHITE COMET--

--AND SINCE THEY WERE AFRAID THAT MY EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE ISLAND TO ITS ORIGINAL SITE WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN FAVOR OF THE TECHNOCRACY--

--THEY USED MY BROTHER AS THEIR TOOL TO SUPPRESS THE TECHNOCRACY!

THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--

-- RESTORING OUR SOCIETY TO THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE!

YOU MEAN WE USED TO BE A BUNCH OF THUGS WHO BEAT THE WEAK AND HELPLESS?

"THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THE YOUTH OF TODAY--NO SENSE OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE!"

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO DO ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION!

WHAT CURRENT SITUATION?

ARE YOU SAYING ECHIDNAPOLIS IS ANYTHING BUT THE EPITOME OF PEACE AND HARMONY OUR PEOPLE BELIEVE IT TO BE?

TOUCHE'!

ALL RIGHT, THEN, ALLOW ME TO LAY MY CARDS ON THE TABLE!

--HAVING DECLARED HE IS NO LONGER RUNNING FOR OFFICE, HIGH COUNCILOR PRAVDA HAS ESSENTIALLY REDUCED HIMSELF TO THE STATUS OF NON-ENTITY!

AS FOR YOU, CONSTABLE--

--YOU ARE AN APPOINTED OFFICIAL TO A NON-POLITICAL POSITION!

THE WAY I SEE IT--

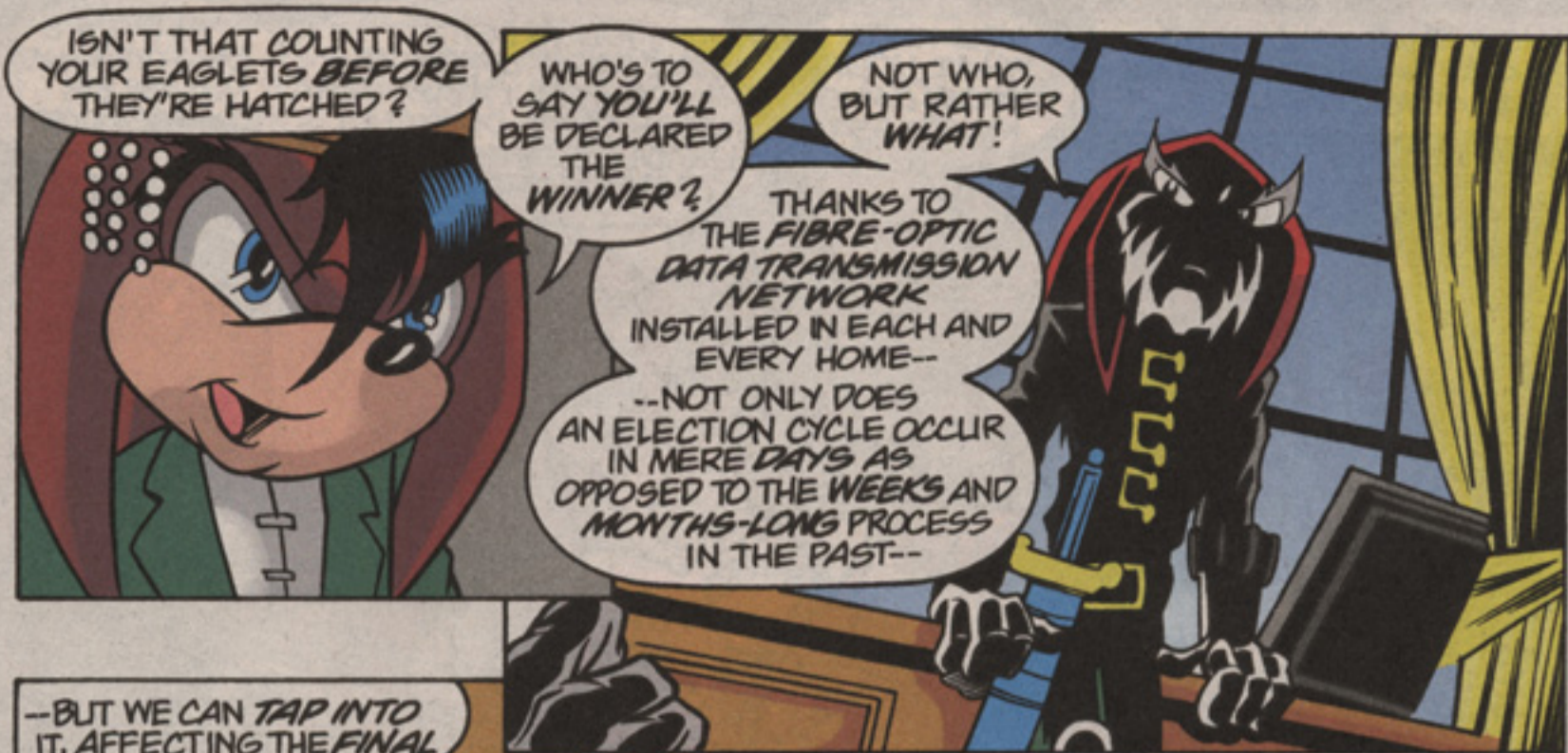
BASED ON HIS REACTION, IT WOULD SEEM MY FRIEND CONCURS!

THAT MEANS YOU CAN BE REPLACED!

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN ONLY A FEW SHORT HOURS, WILL HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE YOURS A LIFETIME APPOINTMENT--

--ANSWERABLE TO NONE, SAVE ME--

--AND ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SWEAR LINDYING LOYALTY TO ME!



ISN'T THAT COUNTING YOUR EAGLETS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED?

WHO'S TO SAY YOU'LL BE DECLARED THE WINNER?

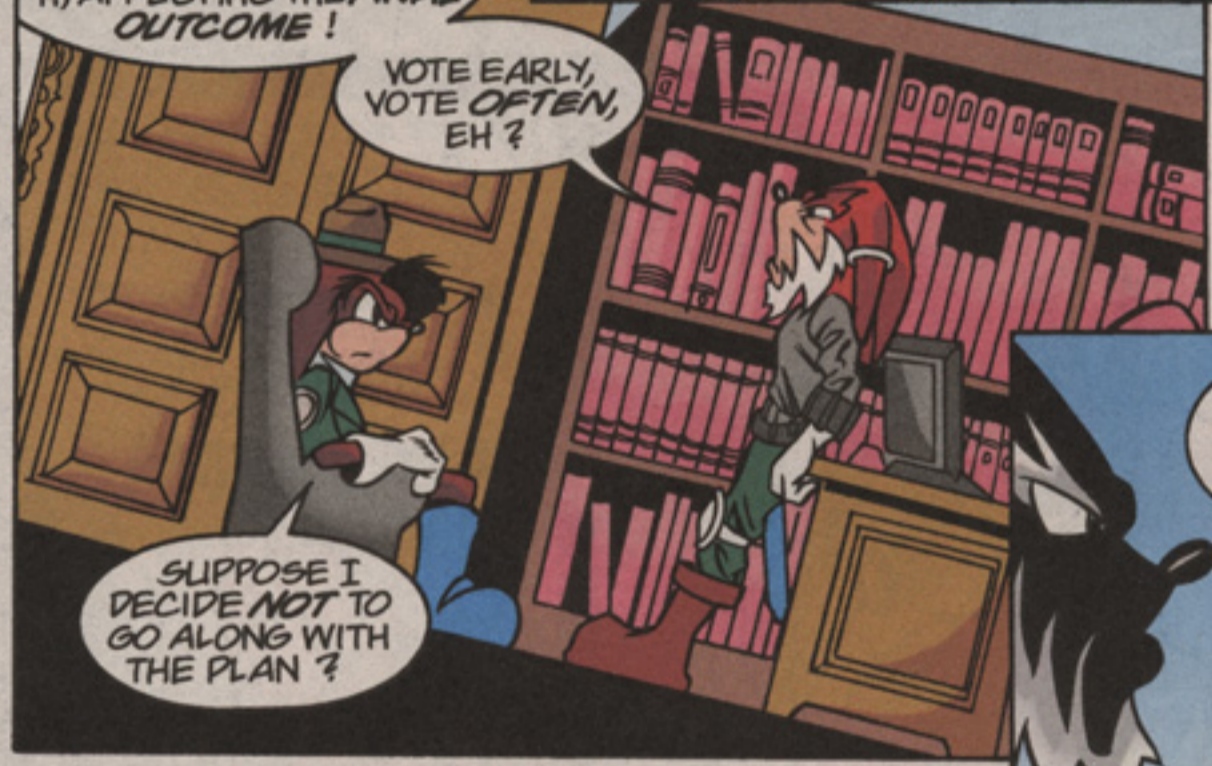
NOT WHO, BUT RATHER WHAT!

THANKS TO THE FIBRE-OPTIC DATA TRANSMISSION NETWORK INSTALLED IN EACH AND EVERY HOME--

--NOT ONLY DOES AN ELECTION CYCLE OCCUR IN MERE DAYS AS OPPOSED TO THE WEEKS AND MONTHS-LONG PROCESS IN THE PAST--

--BUT WE CAN TAP INTO IT, AFFECTING THE FINAL OUTCOME!

VOTE EARLY, VOTE OFTEN, EH?



SUPPOSE I DECIDE NOT TO GO ALONG WITH THE PLAN?

I VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT!

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, CONSTABLE, YOU HAVE YOUR SECRETS--



--SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST-- SOMETHING YOU THOUGHT WOULD ALWAYS STAY HIDDEN--SOMETHING YOU'D RATHER OTHERS NEVER FIND OUT!

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH TO YOU FOR IT TO REMAIN A SECRET?



"NOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, HERE IS WHAT YOU WILL DO..."

YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, KNUCKLES?

YOU'VE BEEN SO CONDITIONED TO THINKING ONLY A CERTAIN WAY, THAT IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN!

THAT TYPE OF THINKING CAN BE DANGEROUS--

--SO WE EITHER DEAL WITH IT OR ELIMINATE IT!

LAST TIME I REMEMBER, YOU WEREN'T TOO KEEN ON MY GOOD HEALTH!*

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT--

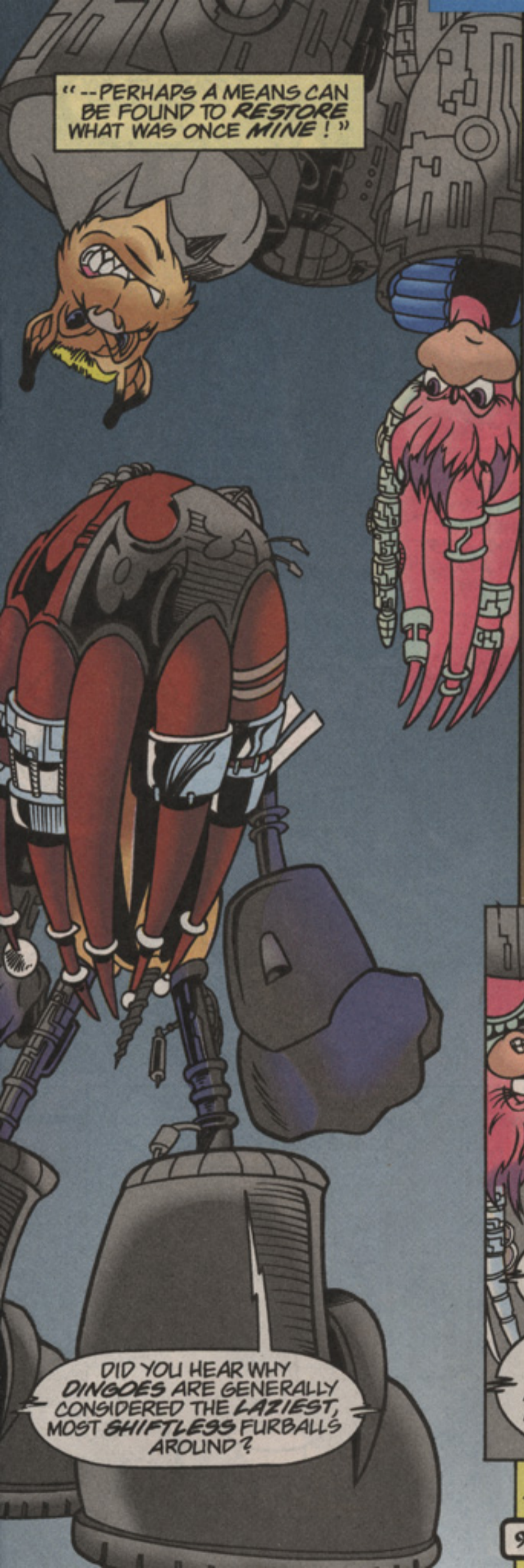
--I'VE HAD MORE THAN AMPLE TIME TO REFLECT UPON THOSE EARLY MEETINGS--

--AND AS I ENDURED THOSE LONG MONTHS OF RECONSTRUCTION BEFORE OLD AGE ALMOST TOOK ME, I REALIZED THERE HAD TO BE SOMETHING--SPECIAL--ABOUT YOU IN ORDER FOR YOU TO PREVAIL AGAINST MY LIMITLESS POWER!

* AS SHOWN IN DARK VENGEANCE STORYLINE IN KNUCKLES #7 THROUGH 9--J.F.G.

BY LEARNING WHAT MAKES YOU TICK--

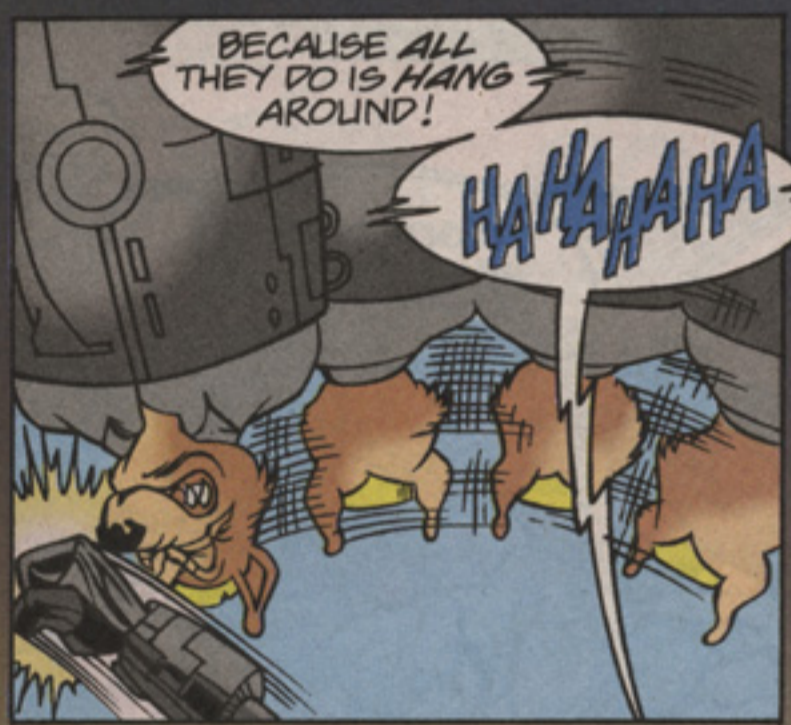
"...PERHAPS A MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO RESTORE WHAT WAS ONCE MINE!"



DID YOU HEAR WHY DINGOES ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE LAZIEST, MOST SHIFTLESS FURBALLS AROUND?

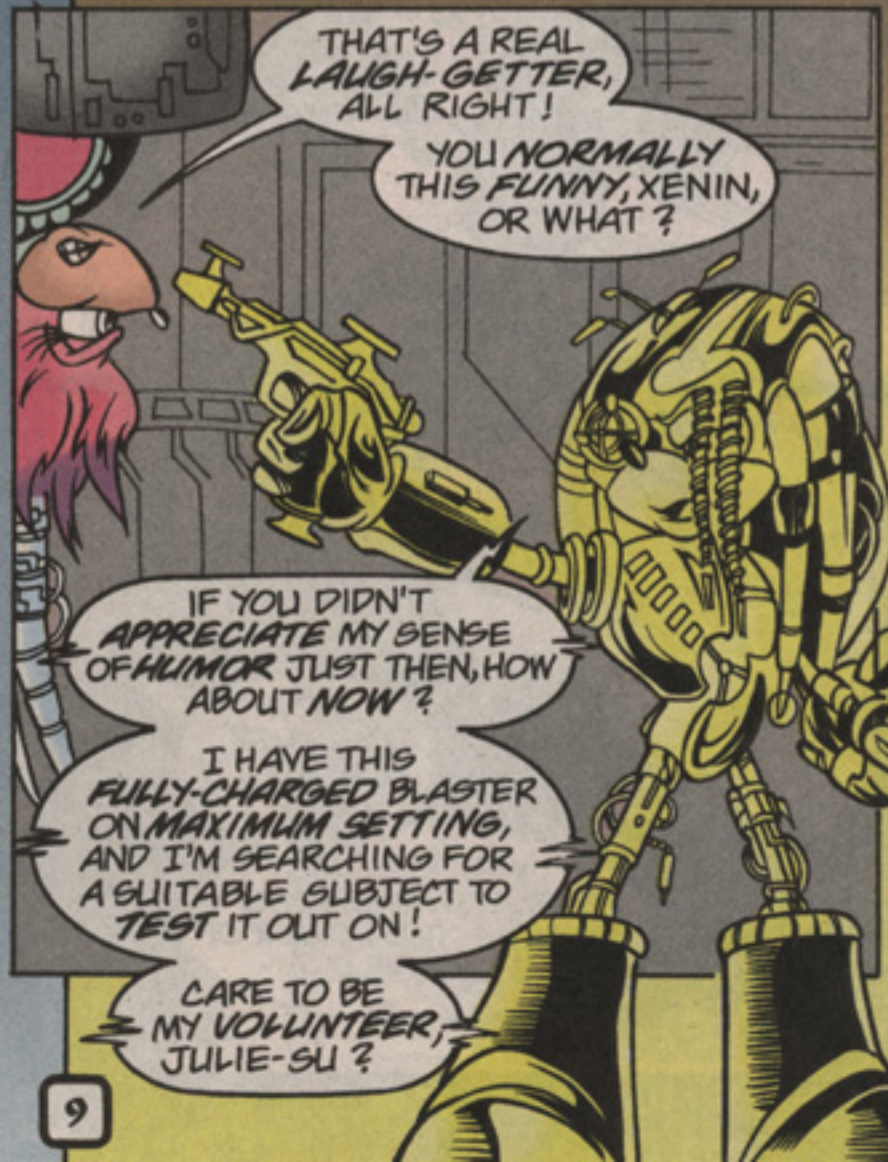


NO?



BECAUSE ALL THEY DO IS HANG AROUND!

HAHAHAHA



THAT'S A REAL LAUGH-GETTER, ALL RIGHT!

YOU NORMALLY THIS FUNNY, XENIN, OR WHAT?

IF YOU DIDN'T APPRECIATE MY SENSE OF HUMOR JUST THEN, HOW ABOUT NOW?

I HAVE THIS FULLY-CHARGED BLASTER ON MAXIMUM SETTING, AND I'M SEARCHING FOR A SUITABLE SUBJECT TO TEST IT OUT ON!

CARE TO BE MY VOLUNTEER, JULIE-SU?



SO THIS IS HAVEN, EH?

SEEMS A LOT LIKE OUR LAST SET-UP!*

*AS SEEN IN KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION # 1 THROUGH 3--JUSTIN.



I THOUGHT THESE GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AGAINST US!

INSTEAD, THEY COME ACROSS MORE LIKE US!



DON'T LET ANY OF THIS FOOL YOU!

IF PAST HISTORY IS ANY INDICATION--



YOU GOT THAT **RIGHT!**

--THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN EITHER SIDE-- Ugh!

OOF!

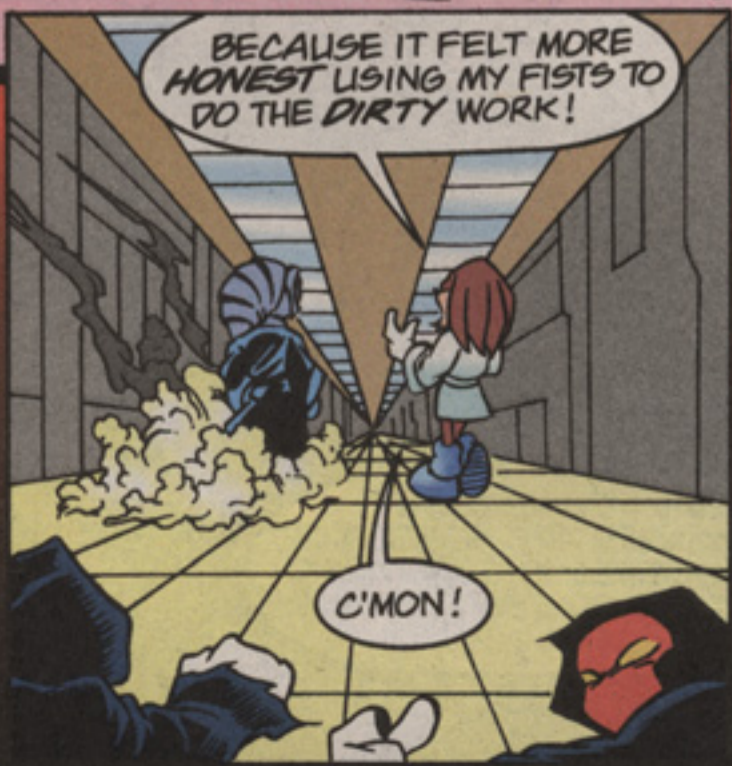
WUUMPH!

WHAAAM



HOW VULGAR OF YOU, LOCKE!

WHY RESORT TO FISTS WHEN YOU POSSESS THE POWER OF THE EMERALD?



BECAUSE IT FELT MORE HONEST USING MY FISTS TO DO THE DIRTY WORK!

C'MON!

"THE BATTLE'S ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED!"

WELL, CONSTABLE--
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

--I SIMPLY CAN'T GO ALONG WITH YOU!

MAYBE IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SELL OUT, BUT I'M NOT WILLING TO PAY THAT PRICE!

IRREGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOU MAY HAVE ON ME, BENEDICT--

WHAAT?!

DO YOU REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR DECISION, REMINGTON??

YES! I DO!

AND THAT'S "CONSTABLE" REMINGTON TO YOU!

TAKE IT UP WITH HIGH COUNCILOR PRAVDA!

HE'S OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS, ANYWAY!

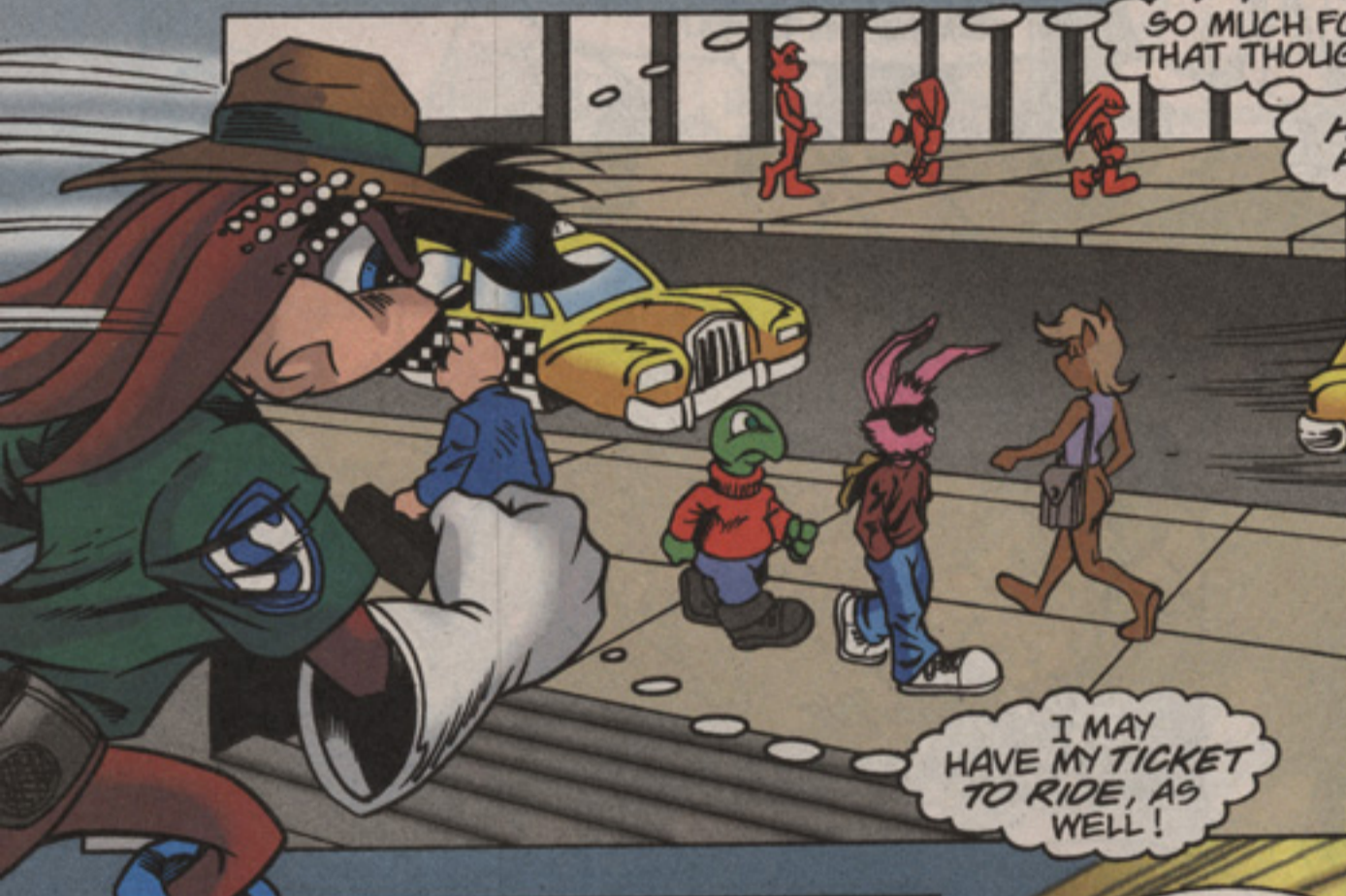
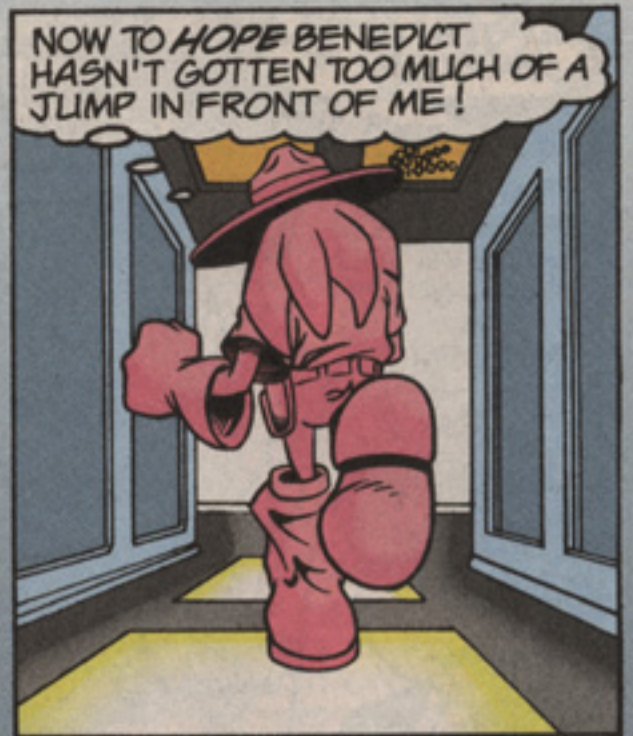
SLAAM!

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--

--I HAVE AN ELECTION TO CLAIM VICTORY OF!

MY APOLOGIES, HIGH COUNCILOR--

--BUT I CAN'T ALLOW YOUR "FRIEND" TO ESCAPE!



"DON'T YOU EVER REQUEST ANYTHING THAT *ISN'T* DETRIMENTAL TO SOMEONE'S HEALTH?"

TAKE A LOOK, SIR!

CAN YOU DETERMINE WHETHER THE CAUSE FOR THIS ANOMALY IS NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL IN ORIGIN?

THE READINGS I'M GETTING FROM THE MAGNETIC IMAGING RESONATOR ARE TOTALLY OFF THE DIAL!

SIR, THE RESONATOR DOESN'T SHOW A TRACE OF ANY ARTIFICIAL IMPLANTS, ENHANCEMENTS OR DEVICES OF ANY KIND!

NOT EVEN ON A SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL!

IF *KNUCKLES* IS INDEED THE NATURAL SOURCE OF SUCH ENERGY, THESE READINGS INDICATE HE'S CAPABLE OF GENERATING POWER AKIN TO A CHAOS EMERALD.

CAN IT BE POSSIBLE--?

AFTER ALL, I GAINED MY POWER THROUGH THE MEANS OF A CHAOS SYPHON!

BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE ACTUALLY DARED TO BIOENGINEER THE ULTIMATE ECHIDNA--

--TO WHAT LIMIT WOULD THAT INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITIES EXTEND?

AND IF WHAT I'M THINKING IS CORRECT, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN A GREAT MANY THINGS.

SIR!! THE ALARM!!!

BRAAK!
BRAAK!
BRAAK!

TECHNICIAN!
WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?

SIR, THE RESONATOR
IS OVERLOADING!

I'M TRYING TO SHUT
ALL SYSTEMS DOWN, BUT
NOTHING'S WORKING!

"EVEN THE CIRCUIT
BREAKERS
ARE BLOWING!"

"IT'S AS IF WE WERE
PLUGGED INTO A
LIMITLESS POWER
SOURCE AND COULDN'T
DISCONNECT!"

CAN WE CONTAIN THE
POWER SURGES? LIMIT THEM
ONLY TO THE IMMEDIATE
VICINITY?

HIGHLY
DOUBTFUL,
SIR!

SYSTEM
AFTER SYSTEM IS
COLLAPSING!

OUR ENTIRE
NETWORK IS NOW IN
JEOPARDY!

WHAT ABOUT
KNUCKLES?

CAN WE EXTRACT
HIM SAFELY OUT OF
THE CHAMBER?

UNKNOWN,
SIR!

AT THE PRESENT
RATE OF RADIATION DISCHARGE,
THE ENVIRONMENT INSIDE
THE CHAMBER WILL BE
UNINHABITABLE IN LESS THAN
FIFTEEN MINUTES!

ARE
THERE ANY OTHER
OPTIONS STILL OPEN,
TECHNICIAN?

YOU CAN
EITHER GIVE THE
ORDER TO EVACUATE,
SIR--

"...OR YOU CAN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE SOURCE OF OUR PROBLEM NOW LYING INSIDE THE CHAMBER!"

HELLO! END OF THE LINE!

HARRY!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

KEEP GOING!!!



ARE YOU NUTS, CONSTABLE?!

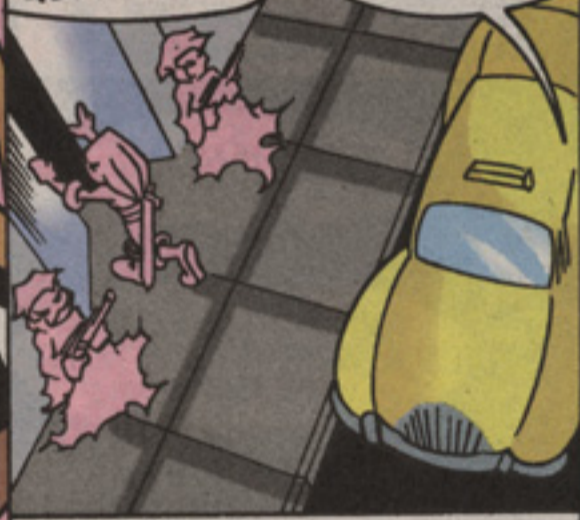
DID YOU SEE WHERE BENEDICT CHECKED INTO?

THAT'S THE TECHNOLOGY NOW CAMPAIGN HEAD-QUARTERS!

WORD ON THE STREET IS YOU DON'T WANNA MESS WITH THESE GUYS!

EASY, HARRY!

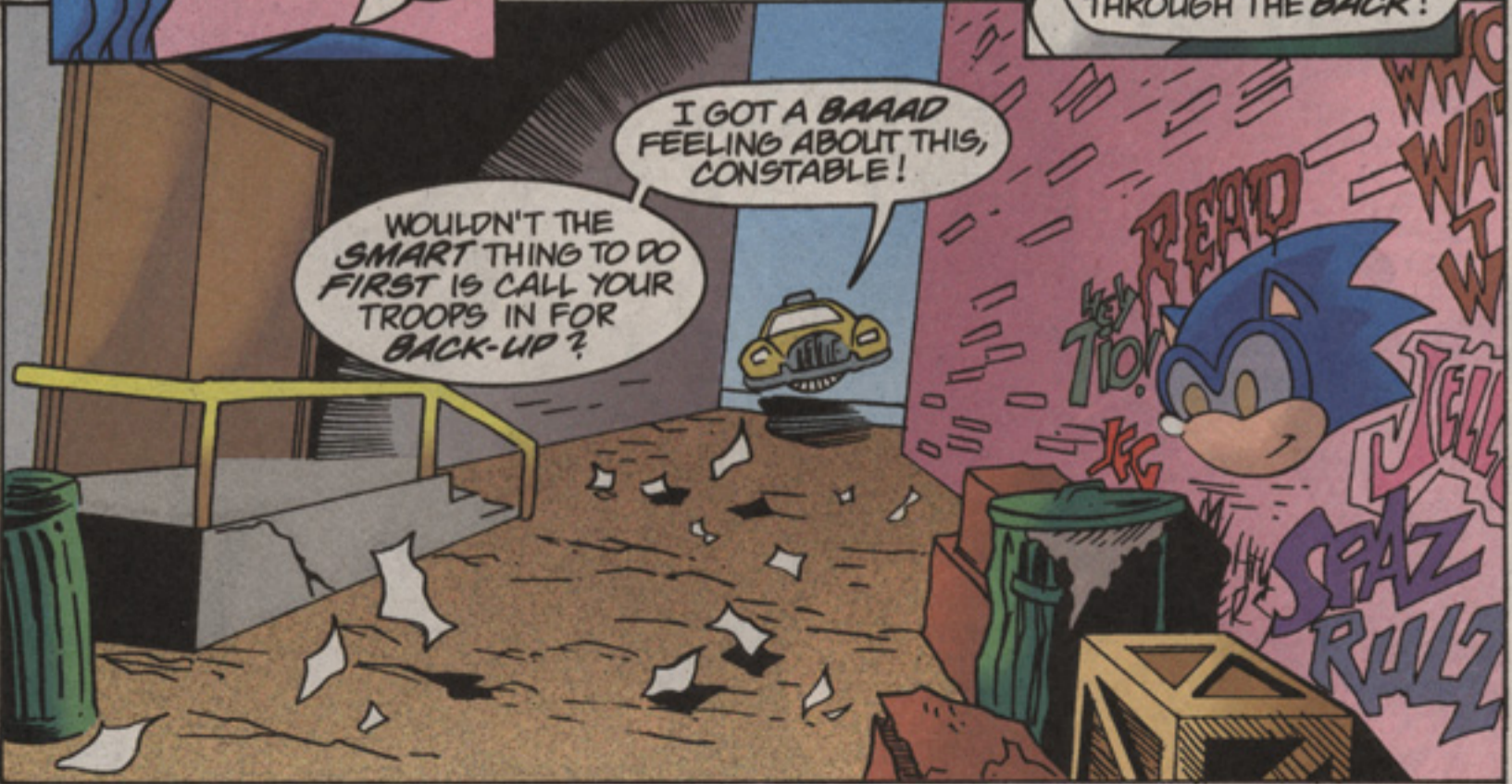
WE AREN'T GOING TO ATTEMPT A FRONTAL ASSAULT!



MAKE A RIGHT AND LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND A WAY IN THROUGH THE BACK!

I GOT A BAAAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, CONSTABLE!

WOULDN'T THE SMART THING TO DO FIRST IS CALL YOUR TROOPS IN FOR BACK-UP?



"NORMALLY, IT WOULD BE HARRY, BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT SURE WHO TO TRUST!"

COME IN, KOMMISAR!

DIMITRI IS MOST ANXIOUS TO HEAR YOUR REPORT!

MORITORI REX AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS PLACE MOST THOROUGHLY--

--AND THE CONSENSUS IS IT WOULD SUIT OUR NEEDS PERFECTLY!

WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDIANS?

ARE THEY ALL ACCOUNTED FOR?

ALL BUT TWO!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, HOWEVER--

BLIIP!

WHA--?!!

GRAND-FATHER!! WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH CENTRAL COMMAND!!

I'LL WAGER IT'S OUR LONG LOST BIRDIES COME HOME TO ROOST!

BE ON GUARD FOR ANYTHING!

ESPECIALLY SPECTRE!

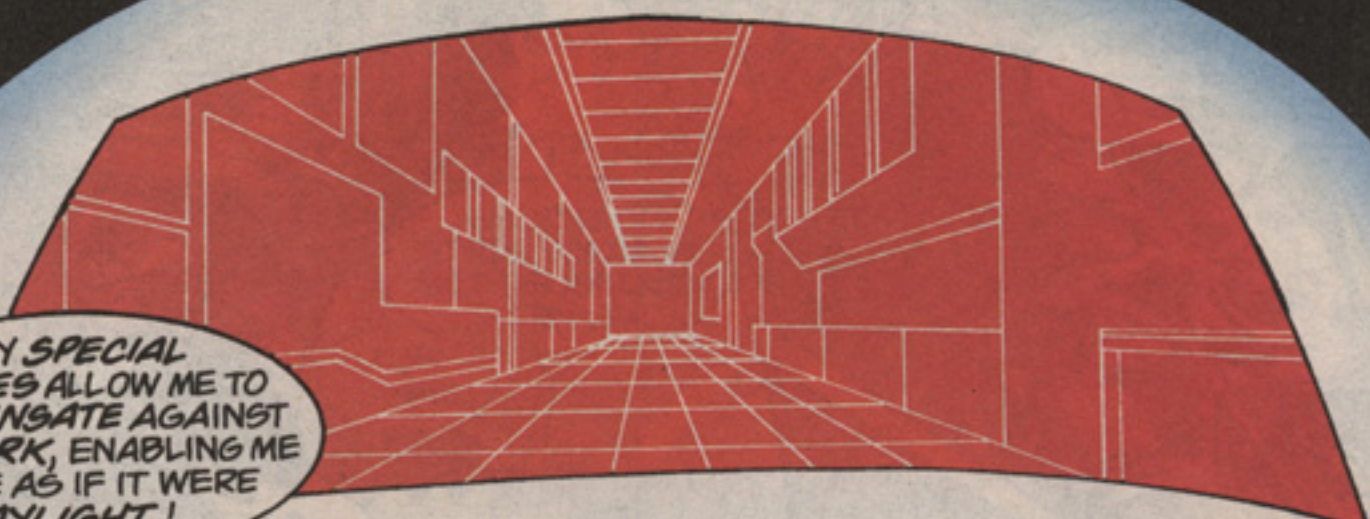
THE LIGHTS!! BUT HOW?

OUR TROOPS ARE EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT!

RELAX, KOMMISAR! I KNOW ALL OF THEIR SECRETS--

--AND I KNOW HOW TO USE THIS LABYRINTH TO OUR ADVANTAGE!


FOLLOW ME!




MY SPECIAL LENSES ALLOW ME TO COMPENSATE AGAINST THE DARK, ENABLING ME TO SEE AS IF IT WERE DAYLIGHT!



MY EYES!



I CAN'T SEE!!!




I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, TREACHEROUS ONE!

THERE'S MUCH YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER FOR!


SPECTRE!

HERE TO EXTRACT YOUR REVENGE, NO DOUBT!




AMONG OTHER THINGS!

I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, LOCKE, BUT IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN A HOT PLACE BEFORE YOU-- SEE--ME--



--BEG-- uhh--



EVERYONE ELSE SHOULD BE SLEEPING LIKE A BABY, THANKS TO THE GAS CANNISTERS WE HOOKED UP TO THE VENTILATION SYSTEM!

BEFORE WE GET CARRIED AWAY PATTING OURSELVES ON THE BACK--

"--THERE'S STILL A LOT OF WORK LEFT TO DO!"

GIVE THE WORD, SIR,
BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!

NO!

KNUCKLES
IS MUCH MORE
VALUABLE TO ME
ALIVE!

BUT,
SIR--!

DO IT!

ALL
HANDS ABANDON
STATIONS!!!! I
REPEAT-- ALL
HANDS ABANDON
STATIONS!!!
THIS IS NOT A
DRILL!! THIS
IS NOT A
DRILL!!!

IT'S BEEN
FLIN, PEOPLE,
BUT NOW I HAVE
TO CLEAR THE
AREA!

WAIT!

YOU CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
US HERE
HANGING LIKE
THIS!!

WHY
NOT--

--ALL I SEE
ARE ENEMIES
AND TRAITORS
DESERVING
WHATEVER
HAPPENS TO
THEM!

YOU HEARD
THE COMMAND!!
EVERYONE
CLEAR OUT

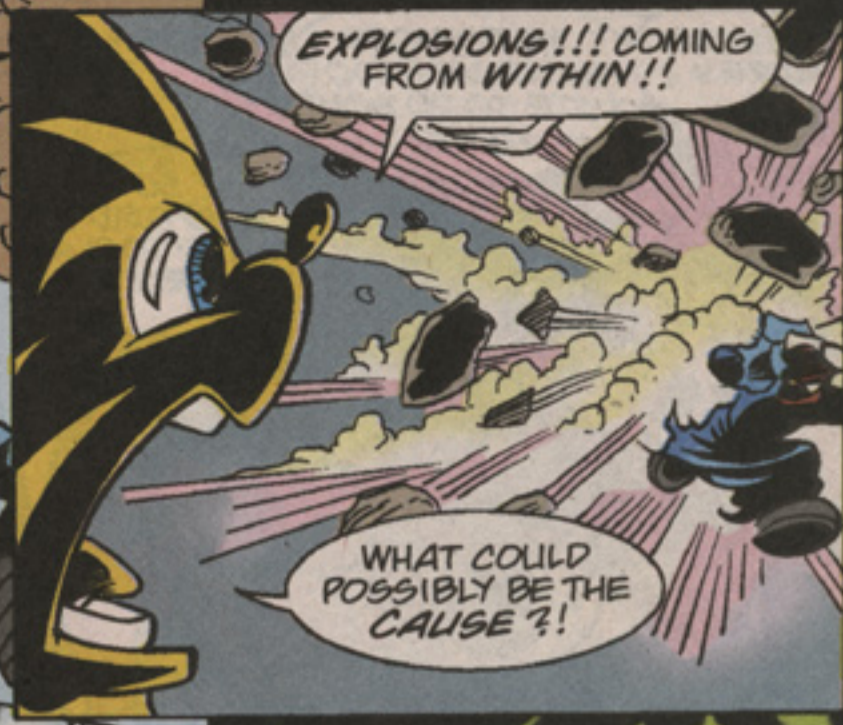
Now!!

BUT
WHAT ABOUT
DIMITRI?!

"DIMITRI LEFT ORDERS THAT HE WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED NO MATTER WHAT, AND UNLESS YOU FEEL LIKE SACRIFICING YOUR LIFE BEFORE IT'S TIME, I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SMART THING!"



HOLD ON HERE! WHERE'S EVERYONE RUNNING OFF TO?



EXPLOSIONS!!! COMING FROM WITHIN!!

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE CAUSE?!

MY SENSORS INDICATE A SURGE OF POWER ON A BUILD-UP!

AT THIS RATE, THERE'LL BE AN IMMENSE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DISCHAR--!



...RRRT... RRRT...

...RRRT... RRRT...

...err...

BENEDICT IS A ROBOT--

--A ROBOT!

C'MON, HARRY!

LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE TO DO SOME GOOD!

SO WHO SAID I WANTED TO PLAY HERO?

WHO SAID YOU HAD A CHOICE?

WE SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF INJURED HERE!

OOW!

YOU ALLRIGHT, JULIE-SU?

OTHER THAN A FEW BLIMPS, SIR--

--I'M FINE!

I SEE YOU AND THE TROOPS ARE NO WORSE FOR WEAR, GENERAL!

NO THANKS TO THOSE MONSTERS!

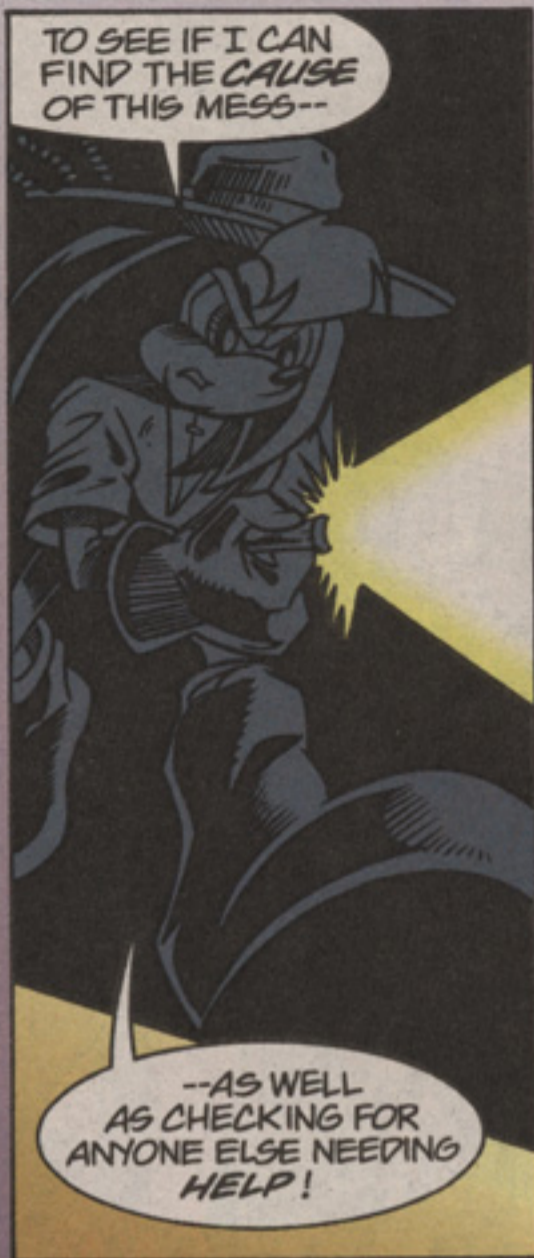
THEY'RE IN SHOCK!

THE LEGIONNAIRES APPARENTLY ARE DEPENDENT UPON THEIR ENHANCEMENTS FOR SURVIVAL!

EVERYTHING ELECTRONIC IN HERE IS DOWN AND OUT, CONSTABLE!

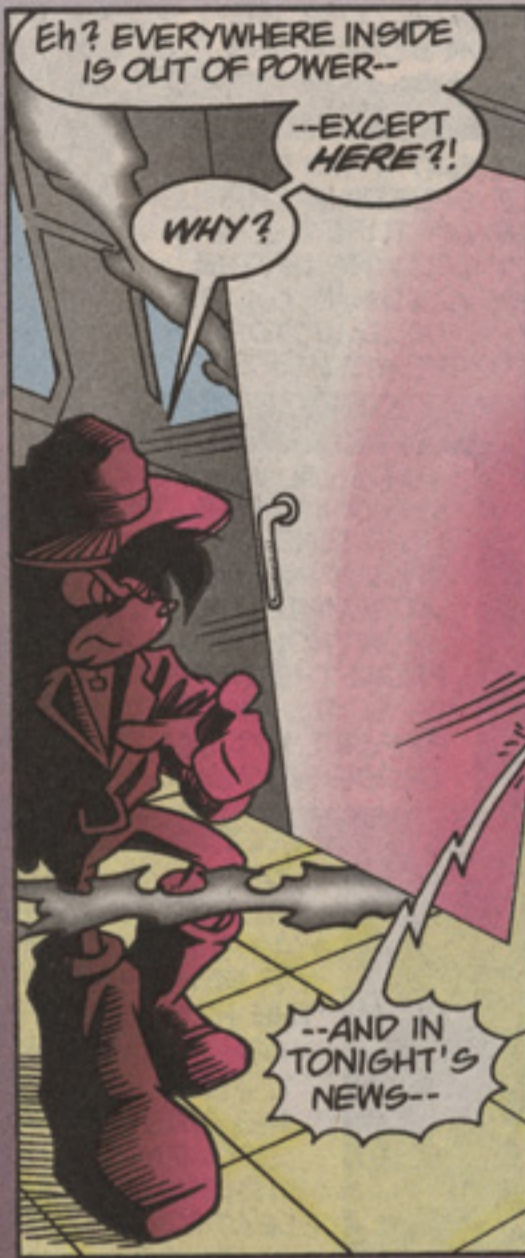
HARRY, GO FIND A WORKING PHONE AND GET THE MEDICS IN HERE!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



TO SEE IF I CAN FIND THE CAUSE OF THIS MESS--

--AS WELL AS CHECKING FOR ANYONE ELSE NEEDING HELP!

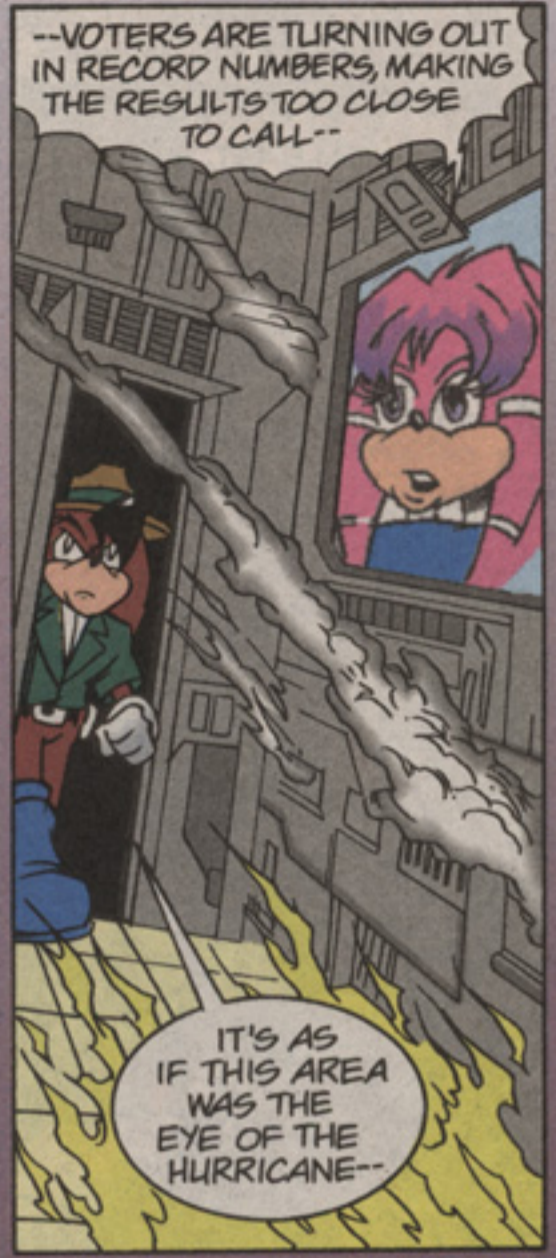


Eh? EVERYWHERE INSIDE IS OUT OF POWER--

--EXCEPT HERE?!

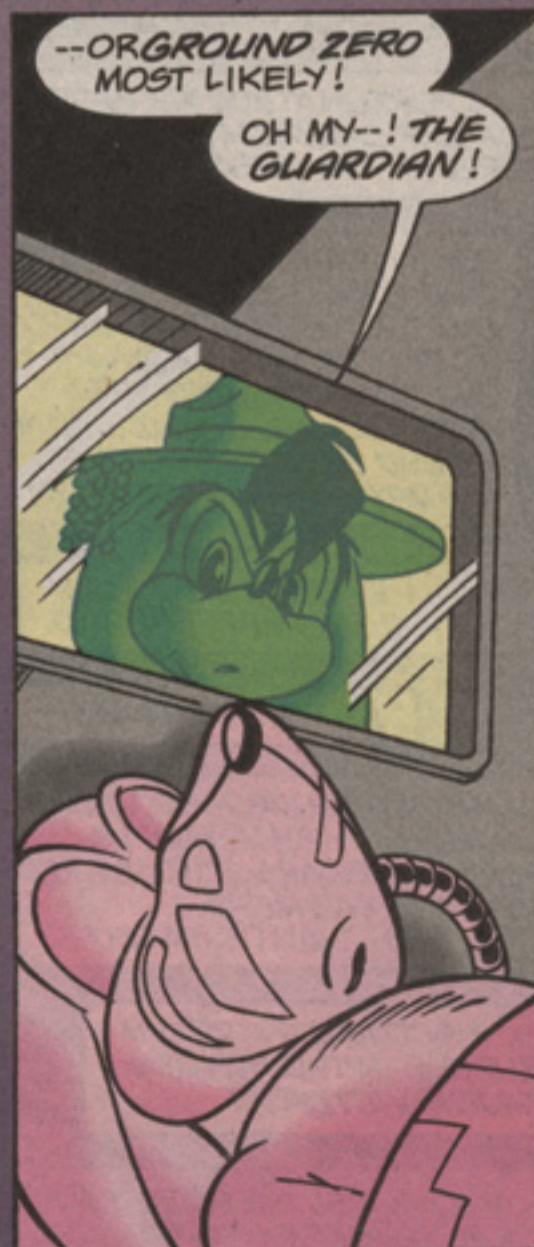
WHY?

--AND IN TONIGHT'S NEWS--



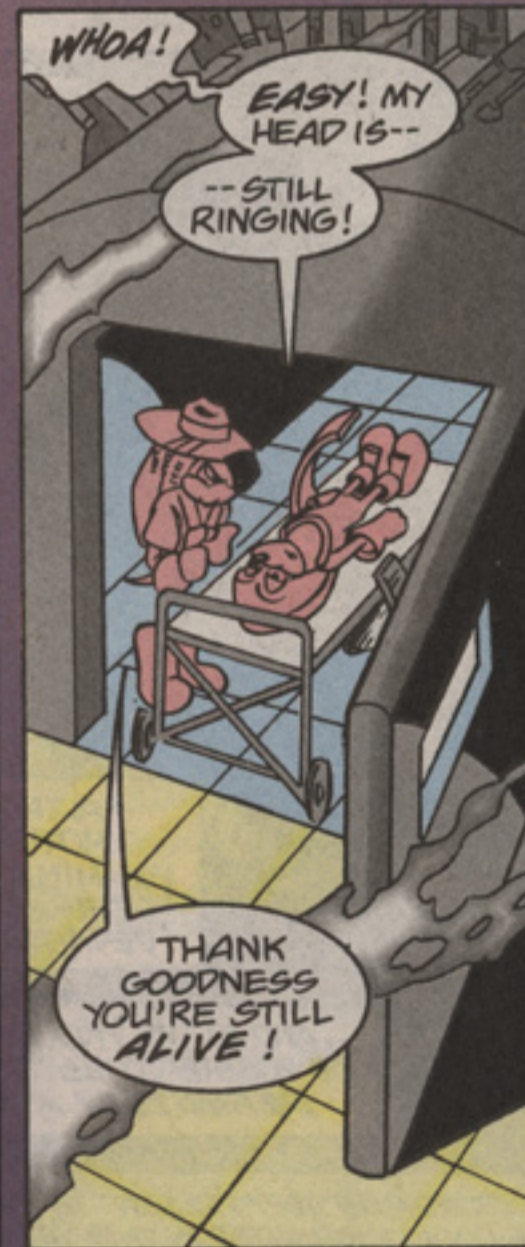
--VOTERS ARE TURNING OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS, MAKING THE RESULTS TOO CLOSE TO CALL--

IT'S AS IF THIS AREA WAS THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE--



--OR GROUND ZERO MOST LIKELY!

OH MY--! THE GUARDIAN!



WHOA!

EASY! MY HEAD IS--

--STILL RINGING!

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!



NO THANKS TO DIMITRI!

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

--WHERE IS HE?

GOOD QUESTION! AND PROBABLY ONE WE WON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO FOR SOME TIME!

TO SAY THE LEAST, CONSTABLE!

BUT WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT--

--LET EVERYONE BEWARE!

AND AS I SAT IN MY PRIVATE SHUTTLE SPEEDING THROUGH THE SUBWAY TUBES, I WAS ALREADY TALLYING UP THE WIN-LOSS COLUMNS, GAUGING WHAT THE TRUE VICTORIES AND DEFEATS WERE.

AS USUAL IN WAR, MANY LEGIONNAIRES FELL IN THE LINE OF DUTY, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO WREST CONTROL OF HAVEN FROM THE GUARDIANS. WE SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIBERATE THOSE WHO SURVIVED.

THE FIRST MAJOR VICTORY, HOWEVER, WAS THE ELECTION OF BENEDICT TO THE POSITION OF HIGH COUNCILOR. UNFORTUNATELY, HIS CIRCUITS COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DISCHARGE.

JUST AS FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A BACK-LIP CANDIDATE TO SERVE IN HIS STEAD.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, THE POWER SURGE TOOK OUT THE DEVICE TIED-IN TO PRAVDA'S NEURAL IMPLANTS, LEAVING THE FORMER HIGH COUNCILOR TO SPEND OUT THE REST OF HIS DAYS AS A VEGETABLE.

I'D STILL PREFER IT WAS HIS ANCESTOR THIS HAPPENED TO.

AS FOR KNUCKLES--

--ALTHOUGH IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE EXAMINATION, IT APPEARS I TRIGGERED OFF SOMETHING FAR MORE DEVASTATING THAN I ANTICIPATED--

--AND IN THE PROCESS, DISCOVERED A REALM OF POSSIBILITIES TO PURSUE IN THE FUTURE. DEFINITELY A MAJOR VICTORY!

NEXT ISSUE: JOIN KEN, MANNY & ANDREW AS THEY PRESENT TO YOU, AT LONG LAST, THE SECRET HISTORY OF KNUCKLES AS HE AND LOCKE ARE FINALLY REUNITED IN THIS YEAR'S MOST OFFBEAT TALE ...

CHILDHOOD'S END!



PRO ART BY
SAM MAXWELL.
COLOR AND ENJOY!